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BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT OPENS RIVER PLATE CONFERENCE

PY061753 Paris AFP in Spanish 1716 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Brasilia, 6 Dec (AFP) -- Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo opened here today the 13th meeting of foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin which is made up of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

At the opening meeting held at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, Figueiredo said: Fully involved in achieving the unity of Latin American nations, we want to contribute to the development and strengthening of Latin America through the development of resources of the River Plate Basin. Noting that the effectiveness of the River Plate Basin system requires the establishment of priorities and a joint effort to achieve these objectives, Figueiredo said that among these priorities is the construction of transportation and communications networks. Figueiredo added that although modest, the River Plate Basin financial development fund is an important tool in this process. He also noted that binational undertakings such as Itaipu and Salto Grande bring considerable development to the region.

Attending the meeting in Brasilia, where the River Plate Basin treaty was signed in 1969, are Foreign Ministers Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari from Argentina; Mario Velarde Dorado from Bolivia; Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro from Brazil; Alberto Nogues from Paraguay; and Carlos Alberto Maso, from Uruguay.

Bolivian Minister's Address

PY071514 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado has called for international solidarity to resolve Bolivia's landlocked situation. Minister Velarde also stated that an outlet to the sea for Bolivia will make it possible for the River Plate Basin countries to have access to the major trade routes in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The Bolivian foreign minister delivered a speech during the opening ceremony of the 13th meeting of foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin countries which was opened in Brasilia yesterday by Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo.

The River Plate Basin area is self-sufficient in the majority of the essential products for world economy. For this reason, the integration efforts that we are making should be focussed on making the best use of the area's resources. Foreign Minister Velarde Dorado made this statement in response to the speech delivered by President Baptista Figueiredo.

Minister Velarde also pointed to the need for linking the Atlantic with the Pacific Oceans, adding that drawing up cooperation plans is a mandatory task for the present and forthcoming generations. Velarde Dorado referred to this aspect of the integration process based on a solution to Bolivia's landlocked situation, a subject which was discussed during the opening session of the meeting of the Argentine, Brazilian and Uruguayan [and Paraguayan] foreign ministers that was held in Brasilia. Foreign Minister Velarde stated that Bolivia's landlocked situation is the result of a war staged by Chile 103 years ago. He added that this situation restricts not only Bolivia's sovereignty and its chances for economic development, but it is also a source of unrest that undermines the objectives of peace, justice and brotherhood of the inter-American system.

Bolivia is willing to maintain relations with all the countries of the world in line with the principles of nonintervention, respect for the self-determination of the peoples, solidarity, peace, friendship, and of mutually beneficial cooperation, Foreign Minister Velarde stated.

Foreign Minister Velarde stated that Bolivia has experienced a peaceful transition from a dicatorship to democracy. He added that this wonderful experience was not a casual event, but the result of the efforts made by the country's social and economic sectors to find a patriotic solution to the crisis the country was experiencing. Minister Velarde made it a point of stating that the need for finding a solution has strengthened national unity, which is based on democratic pluralism. He also stated that the constitutional government headed by Lr Hernan Siles Suazo represents the entire Bolivian people and that it encompasses an unprecedented political, social and ideological spectrum.

In the field of international policy, Minister Velarde stated that Bolivia maintains the principle of nonalignment, adding that this principle is the expression of Bolivia's internal pluralism. The treatment given by Bolivia to the members of the international community is based on the principles of tolerance and respect for other people's ideas which prevail in Bolivia, Minister Velarde Dorado stated.

Argentine Minister's Activities

PY071607 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1235 GMT 7 Dec 82

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Brasilia, 7 Dec (NA) -- Argentine Foreign Minster Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari has said that Argentine President Reynaldo Bignone and Brizilian President Joao Figueiredo will meet after 6 January, although "no definite date or place have been set so far." Meanwhile, news media reported today that the meeting between the two presidents will take place on Monday, 20 December, at the border between the two nations on the Iguazu River.

Aguirre Lanari told his counterparts yesterday during the 13th meeting of River Plate Basin foreign ministers, that the rivers of the area must remain navigable. He also stressed the significance of the Las Pavas, San Jacinto and Icla projects in Bolivia, and the joint efforts of the nations of this region to maintain the quality of the water of River Plate Basin rivers. He added: "Our resources for using our potential are limited, but a joint effort will yield results far greater than those that could be obtained by the individual efforts of each one of our nations."

After the meeting of foreign ministers ended, Aguirre Lanari talked to the press and discussed his meeting with the Brazilian president. He said: "During this meeting I had the opportunity to thank him for Brazil's support for Argentina in the latter's struggle for sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands." Speaking about U.S. President Ronald Reagan's visit to Brazil, Aguirre Lanari said: "I did not notice that he considered it very important [as received], but I was able to see that President Figueiredo is very satisfied with Latin Ameirca's vote against the British aggression in the Malvinas."

RELATIVES CLAIM UK HOLDING FALKLANDS HOSTAGES

PY071426 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0033 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Parana, 5 Dec (DYN) -- Relatives of Malvinas war combatants have issued a communique in which they said that "the British are holding more than 300 hostages" and revealed that "soldiers reported dead or missing in action have returned home."

This communique was issued today in this city by the "National Commission of Relatives of Combatants Missing in the Malvinas" during a meeting attended by relatives of soldiers who fought in the Malvinas. These relatives came to Parana from all over the country.

This is the second such communique to be issued by relatives of former combatants. It described a number of steps taken in approaching the apostolic nuncio, Msgr Ubaldo Calabrisi, who reportedly told them that "the church is willing to help the commission through the apostolic nunciature and if the commission goes to the Vatican it will have its full support."

In this regard the members of the commission are studying the possibility of going to Europe in order to investigate the fate of their relatives missing during the South Atlantic conflict and indicated that they have asked the armed forces for economic support for these trips.

From the administrative point of view, "the air force considers the case closed, but in view of the pressure applied by the relatives and the evidence which has been submitted, it will open an information bureau and do everything possible working jointly with the commission," the communique stated.

It also noted that "good will and the change of attitude observed during our dealings with Army Colonels (Santana) and Ibarra and Major Carrizo who was in the Malvinas."

The communique concluded by saying that periodic meetings will be held at different places in the country, "because events call for this since the possibility that our relatives missing (during the war) are still alive is very strong, perhaps stronger than ever, and everyone is committed to continue struggling and making efforts to unveil the truth that has been denied so many times: that England is holding hostages."

EDUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT

Joint Declaration

PY071529 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2155 GMT 3 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM) -- Ecudorean Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez has reiterated his country's position regarding Argentina's right to exercise full sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich islands. He also stated that his country supports the decision that asks the parties to seek a quick solution through negotiations based on the application of the principle of territorial integrity.

These statements are contained in a joint declaration that was signed today by the two foreign ministers, Valencia Rodriguez and Juan Aguirre Lanari, during a ceremony that was held in the Gold Room of San Martin Palace with the attendance of authorities from various departments of the ministry.

The document notes the activities that were carried out by the Ecuadorean minister during his 3-day stay; his meeting with President Bignone and the agreements in various areas that they reached; and a $50-million line of credit granted by Argentina to finance the purchase of Argentine products and the use of Argentine services.

Valencia Rodriguez has invited Aguirre Lanari to visit Ecuador, "which has accepted with pleasure.

"The two ministers renewed the adhesion of the two countries to the principle that no nation may apply or instigate coercive measures of an economic or political nature to force another nation so that the former can obtain an advantage." The declaration highlights the proclamation of solidarity of the parties when having to face this type of illegitimate action.

Regarding Latin America, they indicated that dialogue between the region's countries is necessary in order to coordinate reciprocal interests and understanding that will lead to the achievement of a more effective cooperation between the countries that are located in the same geographical area and have the same cultural background.

The two ministers reiterated their adherence to the Charters of the United Nations and the OAS. They indicated that the Nonaligned Movement must ensure the preservation of the basic principles that brought it to life, and they expressed their pleasure over the announcement by Colombia and Venezuela that they intend to become full members of the movement.

They asserted that lasting peace must be based on the overall development of all members of the international community without distinction and, among other principles, on the elimination of colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid and every other type of racial discrimination, and on the right of every nation to adopt the political, economic and social system that it deems suitable.

They also agreed that the promotion of development is the approriate way to implement social justice, and they acknowledged that the ever-increasing gap between rich and poor nations is humanity's most dramatic problem and that the conflicts between and the interests of the countries of the north and the south demand overall and urgent answers.

There was agreement regarding the convenience of promoting coordinated action to reactivate the North-South dialogue, "which is being delayed by the lack of political desire from the industrialized countries, and they reiterated the firm commitment to accelerate their efforts to make this cooperation more active and continuous, including the promotion of technical cooperation between developing countries."

They reaffirmed their mutual interest in strengthening Latin America's economic organizations, and they highlighted the priority of achieving concrete advances in negotiating the maritime transport agreement, which will be of mutual benefit.

Once the document was signed, the two foreign ministers spoke briefly to highlight the agreements that had been achieved and to refer to the archipelagos. Valencia Rodriguez said that the Malvinas conflict is a controversy that affects us because the basic principles that are the essence of our national policy are involved.

Departure Remarks

PY071828 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1208 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM) -- Just before departing this morning for his country, Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez said that his 2-day visit to Argentina "has been very fruitful in promoting relations between the two countries, despite the fact that the visit was a short one." In the political field, he stated, we have been able to analyze how our two countries are fully identified with the need for strengthening the inter-American system so that it will adequately respond to the ever-increasing needs of our peoples.

Valencia Rodriguez, who yesterday signed a joint declaration together with Argentine Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari, stated at Ezeiza International Airport: We have observed how the inter-American system did not function adequately at a crucial time, not only for Latin America, but especially for Argentina, because the commitments that are established in the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Reciprocal Assitance Treaty. [TIAR] were not carried out adequately. Therefore, we have observed not a new system that will mean modifications to the OAS Charter and the TIAR, but yes, new procedures that will accelerate consultations between countries that have a common destiny, that have similar histories, in order to strengthen and make more solid the union and solidarity of Latin America.

It is the Ecuadorean minister's opinion that "once Latin America recovers the voice and prestige that it has lost during the past few years, its position will be respected and respectable within the international context."

Changing the course of his remarks, he stated: We have also revised the need to implement our economic and trade ties through economic and technological cooperation and bilateral trade. There are many areas in which it is possible to improve relations. Therefore, it is necessary that we find support within current agreements and above all in the bilateral agreement within the context of ALADI. [Latin American Integration Association] which was signed between Ecuador and Argentina.

Later on he remarked that "within the cultural field it is necessary that we stimulate cultural trends between one country and the other in order to get to know each other in a more comprehensive way. An improved knowledge of our peoples will help to strengthen that fundamental objective: the continent's unity.

"Moreover, we have observed that within the world context the world's economic crisis is seriously affecting the countries of the Third World. Therefore, in this aspect there is the need to coordinate actions in order to provide reciprocal help in a South-South type of cooperation and through it make it possible to overcome the difficulties we are facing."

When asked whether the United States has learned through this experience, he stated: Yes, I believe so, because the recent U.S. vote at the United Nations is a reencounter with the opposition and is a position that the United States should always have maintained. Its favorable vote on the Malvinas resolution approved during the recent UN General Assembly also helped to prevent a harsh confrontation of positions between the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean within the OAS. I believe that if the United States maintains that position, this reencounter with its neighbors will be very fruitful for all."

He also stated that a new method could be established for emergency cases by quickly convoking the countries to act ipso facto. "Ecuador," he said in this respect, "has proposed that every time there is a matter of continental interest to be discussed, Latin American foreign ministers should meet to establish and coordinate positions; coordination will not be possible on all the points that interest the region, but it will be possible to reach an agreement on basic aspects. Thus, once everything is coordinated there will be the possibility of attending the major forums, such as the OAS and the United Nations, with firmer positions. This is an Ecuadorean proposal: Strengthen unity."

Finally, he sent special greetings and thanks to the Argentine Government and to the brother Argentine people, who have looked after us during these memorable days.

AGUIRRE, BOLIVIAN COUNTERPART MEET IN BRAZIL

PY071838 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1447 GMT 7 Dec 82

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Brasilia, 7 Dec (NA) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari today reported that during their meeting his Bolivian counterpart Mario Velarde Dorado told him that Bolivia "will not become an exporter of extremists." Aguirre Lanari also said that at this meeting the Bolivian foreign minister also said that his country "will not tolerate leftwing or rightwing terrorists because it is a democratic nation."

Velarde Dorado himself had told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the Bolivian Government "is not against the maintenance of Argentine military missions in La Paz and they will always be welcome." He added that "what did irritate us was the presence of certain paramilitary individuals who acted under the prior drug trafficking regime, but we know that those were mercenaries with whom the Argentine Government had nothing to do."

Thus, the Bolivian foreign minister refuted reports on alleged frictions between Bolivia and Argentina caused by the presence of Argentine citizens involved in paramilitary activities in La Paz. Among the "mercenaries" mentioned by Velarde Dorado is Jose Mingolla, an Argentine charged with involvement in repressive actions under Gen Luis Garcia Meza's regime.

Speaking about the results of his meeting with his Bolivian counterpart, Aguirre Lanari said that he was "pleasantly impressed" by the results of the meeting. He especially mentioned the "friendly words" of his counterpart and pointed out that "bilateral relations between Bolivia and Argentina are very good." He said that the price of the gas that Bolivia sells to Argentina was discussed at the meeting and noted that there is a will to resolve the problem which "is now in the hands of the experts." Aguirre Lanari also voiced optimism regarding the future of bilateral relations.

ARMY COMMANDER NICOLAIDES LEAVES FOR PERU

PY071932 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1858 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- Lt Gen Cristino Nicolaides left for Peru shortly before 1600 [1900 GMT]. Among other activities, Nicolaides will meet with Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry. Nicolaides is returning the visit paid a month ago to Argentina by the commander of the Peruvian Army.

GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS $100 MILLION WORLD BANK LOAN

PY071330 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2240 GMT 2 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (DYN) -- The Economy Ministry yesterday officially confirmed that a contract was signed the day before yesterday in Washington by which the World Bank granted $100 million to Argentina. This amount will be used together with the funds earmarked by the National Development Bank for loans to Argentine industrial companies. According to the Economy Ministry, the conditions of the World Bank loan are "very advantageous": a term of payment of 15 years with 3 years of grace and an "interest rate slightly over 11 percent."

POLITICIANS ON BIGNONE ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

PY031610 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Dec 82 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Political leaders last night reacted with undisguised scepticism to President Reynaldo Bignone's announcement that elections will be held before the end of next year and called almost unanimously for the polls to be moved up to July 1983.

"General Bignone's announcement is truly disappointing because it shows that the government does not grasp the seriousness of the people's demands nor of the political hour," was the initial reaction voiced by Antonio Cafiero, a likely Peronist Party presidential candidate. "This postpones the democratization of the country," Cafiero said. "Elections can and should be held by July 1983, as called for by all the political parties and public opinion."

Radical Party leader Luis Leon, meanwhile, said that Bignone's announcement was "vague, imprecise and far off, and doesn't improve the government's image or credibility with the people." Leon called on the government "to use the same courage they showed in freezing the constitution to bring it back as quickly as possible."

Christian Democratic politician Martin Dip said that the announced date of the last quarter of 1983 "adds nothing new to the time frame announced earlier by the military junta" and asked that the balloting be moved to July 1983 "because any delay will only postpone the solution to the acute problems the nation is suffering from."

Alvaro Alsogaray, the former economy minister and head of the newly-formed Democratic Centre Union, said the election announcement was "halfway positive" and that "it is good that the government ratify its decision to call elections, but bad to wait until the end of next year to begin seeking the solutions the country needs."

Alsogaray and Communist Party President Athos Fava agreed in calling for the polls to be held by July of next year at the latest. Fava said he believed the president's announcement "will make it less likely that the transition to democracy will be interrupted and discourage destabilizing attempts."

Radical Fernando de la Rua opined that elections "should be staged so that power is turned over on October 12 (Columbus Day) 1983."

Peronist Party First Vice President Deolindo Bittel, who returned from Corrientes yesterday, said the announcement "shows the government is beginning to do what it should in that respect."

The most favourable of the responses received from the politicians consulted was from Movement for Integration and Development (MID) leader Rogelio Frigerio, who said the president's statements "can be received with approval by the Argentine people." Frigerio also warned, however, that "the promise of elections will be sterile if there is not a simultaneous and profound shift in social and economic policy."

Simon Lazara, who heads the United Socialist Party, reacted to Bignone's announcement by saying it "fails to give any information at all about the electoral regulations. "The military government continues to refuse to set a concrete date for elections, and this is highly dangerous in the current situation, since it increases insecurity and instability," Lazara said.

Almost all of the politicians coincided in rejecting the president's hint that a series of elections will be held leading up to the vote for president.

PERONIST ARRESTED ON ORDERS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH

PY071951 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0230 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (DYN) -- Sources close to Juan Carlos Basile, former housing secretary during Peron's administration today reported that the Federal Police have arrested the former official in Mar del Plata and placed him at the disposal of the executive branch. The sources indicated that the arrest took place at 1230 when Basile arrived in Mar del Plata by car together with his brother Ricardo and a Justicialist politician whose name is Savio. Basile, who arrived in Argentina on Thursday, after having been abroad ever since Maria Estela Martinez de Peron's government fell, planned to stay in Mar del Plata until Tuesday.

Ricardo Basile telephoned his lawyers in Buenos Aires and explained that a car had been following his during the entire trip to Mar del Plata and that as soon as they arrived in that city, the other car intercepted them and its occupants, after identifying themselves as Federal Police, arrested Juan Carlos Basile. Ricardo Basile and Savio were allowed to go free but they insisted on following the former housing secretary to the local Federal Police detachment. There they were told that Basile was arrested on the orders of the executive branch.

Juan Carlos Basile is being charged under the institutional responsibility act. When he arrived in Buenos Aires on Thursday he said that he had decided to come back of his own free will and that all the charges prefered against him in connection with his performance as housing secretary had been duly clarified in court.

COMMUNIST PARTY REPORTS ATTACK ON PREMISES

PY061835 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2137 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Nov (DYN) -- The Communist Party of Argentina [PCA] today reported that the premises of its branch in Los Polvorines was attacked with large-caliber weapons yesterday. The PCA released a protest communique asking that the attack be investigated and that the persons responsible, "who were obviously driven by deplorable destabilizing purposes," be punished. The communique adds that "the PCA is against any coup attempt, notwithstanding its moves to defend democracy; the full exercise of the people's rights; the interests of the nation and of the people; and the people's freedom, welfare, progress and sovereignty."

PLO DELEGATION ARRIVES IN LA PAZ 4 DECEMBER

PY071306 Paris AFP in Spanish 0512 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Text] La Paz, 4 Dec (AFP) -- It was learned in La Paz that a PLO delegation arrived today in this capital with the purpose of granting important lines of credit to Bolivia. The delegation includes (Munir al Dighani), the PLO representative in Spain; (Mahmud Khalid), special ambassador; (Farid Savan), the PLO representative in Brazil; and George Salame, the organization's adviser in Brazil.

PLO-Bolivian relations have improved substantially since Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo stated in a speech last week to the UN General Assembly that he supports the Palestinian cause.

The members of the PLO delegation refused to make any statements until they meet with Siles Zuazo. The meeting is scheduled for next Monday.

Meets With President

PY071717 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The PLO delegation has announced an important press conference to be held at the (?Plaza) Hotel of La Paz at 1600 [2000 GMT] today. The PLO delegation, which is headed by (Walter Yasani) and is made up of four additional members, arrived at Government House within the past few hours. The delegation paid protocol visits yesterday to the majority of the political parties and to the Foreign Ministry. (?Spokesmen) for the delegation have stated that all the meetings were cordial and marked by a positive attitude toward the just Palestinian cause.

Similarly, the delegation met last night with Bolivia's constitutional president, Hernan Siles Zuazo. The delegation conveyed to him PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's gratitude for the support for the PLO struggle expressed by Bolivia at the UN General Assembly. The constitutional president of the republic expressed his pleasure over the PLO delegation's arrival. President Siles added that his statement at the United Nations stemmed from the Bolivian Government's conviction on the subject. President Siles also stated that occupations by force, as was the case with Bolivia, is inadmissible.

It has also been stated that Bolivia's recognition of the PLO is not conditioned on any economic aid and that Bolivia's support for the just Palestinian cause [words indistinct] conviction of the constitutional government.

The PLO delegation will hold a meeting this afternoon with Jaime Paz Zamora, the constitutional vice president of the republic. In conclusion, the delegation state that it will pay visits to the Senate and to the Chamber of Deputies.

EEC DELEGATION VISITS, PROMISES ECONOMIC HELP

PY071758 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpt] President Hernan Siles Zuazo has received a formal promise from the EEC that it would contribute toward finding solutions to Bolivia's economic problems. President Siles Zuazo met yesterday with the EEC delegation which arrived in the country last week. The representatives of the international organization are evaluating reports submitted to them by national authorities and bodies.

NEW GDR AMBASSADOR ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

PY072027 Paris AFP in Spanish 1817 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] La Paz, 7 Dec (AFP) -- Arthur Holtegee, new GDR ambassador to Bolivia, stated in La Paz today that the GDR Government is willing to strengthen relations and increase its economic cooperation with Bolivia. Ambassador Holtegee presented his credentials to President Hernan Siles Zuazo, to whom he conveyed the GDR Government's congratulations for the recent establishment of a constitutional government in Bolivia. The ambassador stated that a date must be set for the meeting of the joint commission to exchange information on the economic aid to be granted.

SIGLO VEINTE MINERS BLOCK ROADS, DEMAND BACK PAY

PY071559 Paris AFP in Spanish 1659 GMT 1 Dec 82

[Text] La Paz, 1 Dec (AFP) -- It was reported here today that miners of Siglo Veinte (a mining district in southeast Bolivia) together with their wives and children, have blocked roads protesting the delayed payment of their salaries. It was reported that this is the first active protest against President Hernan Siles Zuazo's democratic regime.

The miners are asking that the officials of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (Comibol) sign a commitment to pay their salaries on time.

It was also recalled that the social truce, which the Bolivian Labor Federation and the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia had given the government to change its wage policy, will expire today. Since the workers have not agreed to the latest wage proposals, national meetings of workers will be held in the coming days in order to analyze the new situation, according to the veteran leader Juan Lechin Oquendo.

PAPERS LACK NEWSPRINT, WARN THEY MAY CLOSE DOWN

PY071336 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1858 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] La Paz, 4 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Five newspapers of this capital have warned that they will stop publishing if they continue to be refused the necessary foreign exchange for the purchase of newsprint. The warning is contained in a letter addressed to the Finance Ministry by the following newspapers: EL DIARIO, PRESENCIA, HOY, ULTIMA HORA and MERIDIANO.

The letter indicates that at the present time all (newspaper) enterprises lack paper, film, chemical products, plates and other equipment that does not exist on the local market. In fact, we are currently facing a paralysis of our activities, because if we cannot count on that newsprint by this coming weekend, we will suspend publishing as of next [week] and this fact can have a serious impact on the country's image and its social and political sectors, the letter adds.

The newspapers demand that the government urgently grant them foreign exchange for the purchase of the above-mentioned products, and they complain about the delay in which their requests are complied with.

AERONAUTICS MINISTER ON BRIZOLA'S VICTORY

PY070050 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Dec 82 p 5

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- Aeronautics Minister Delio Jardim de Matos stated yesterday that the victory of Leonel Brizola in Rio de Janeiro "is difficult for the military to swallow, but politically, it is better that he won instead of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] candidate Miro Teixeira, who was supported by groups of the radical left." Speaking to reporters who were present at the Brasilia airbase where he was boarding his plane to return to Rio de Janeiro, Jardim de Matos explained that the groups of the left he was referring to were the "MR-8 [Revolutionary Movement 8], or the 'Great Party' [Partidao -- not further explained] and those others you know very well."

He briefly commented on the suggestion made to Brazil to participate in the peace force in Lebanon, endorsing the official government position. He said that "the country is not in a position" to finance troops abroad.

He also commented on the problems experienced with the vote count in Rio de Janeiro, and stated that "what interests us is what the Regional Electoral Court says, and it already announced that Brizola is winning." He feels that if there was a manipulation of votes "it could not be in the governor's race because it would be too evident; but if it did exist, it could have been done only to benefit a deputy or councilman."

PETROBRAS TO INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN 1983

PY072021 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Dec 82 p 35

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- Petrobras investments in 1983 will amount to 1,363,000,000,000 cruzeiros, 85 percent of which will be used in petroleum exploration and production activities. These investments represent a nominal increase of 84 percent over the 740.3 billion cruzeiros invested by the enterprise this year. Investments by Nuclebras [Brazilian Nuclear Corporation] next year will amount to 315 billion cruzeiros, including the addition of 72 billion cruzeiros by the national treasury. This year Nuclebras invested 130.4 billion cruzeiros. This report was released yesterday by Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals, after a number of individual meetings with leaders of state enterprises of the energy and mineral sectors. Cals said that he will present the budget proposals of these two sectors to Planning Minister Delfim Netto on 14 December.

According to Cals, investments by Itaipu Binational in 1983 will amount to 318 billion cruzeiros, which represents a nominal increase of 32 percent compared to the 240.3 billion cruzeiros invested this year.

The minister also stated that 70 percent of the total of 315 billion cruzeiros to be invested by Nuclebras will be used in the construction of nuclear plants. He said that if the Planning Secretariat (Seplan) maintains that budget proposal, there will be no more delays in the timetable for the construction of Angra III in Rio de Janeiro, and of Iguape I and II in Sao Paulo, aside from the delays already recorded in the biddings for these projects. According to the minister's predictions, Angra III will be put into operation in 1989, Iguape I in 1991 and Iguape II in 1992. The construction of the latter two plants was supposed to begin in February 1983, but there will be some delay due to the delay in opening up bidding to award the contract, which Cals did not want to discuss.

ROJAS GALDAMES DISCUSSES REGIONAL PROBLEMS

PY071957 Santiago Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2237 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] During a ceremony that took place yesterday in the Honors Hall of the University of Chile, Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames opened the ninth international seminar that has been organized by the diplomatic academy. The main topic is: "Ibero-America within the context of international relations during the current decade."

In his speech, the foreign minister referred to the current inter-American system and to the OAS, which cannot be turned into a foreign policy instrument for any of its members. He added that we observe with concern how some countries increasingly take advantage of our international forums, using them as sounding boards for disagreement, for ideological intolerance, urged on by an excessive desire to invade spheres that are the exclusive domain of each nation. Moreover, those countries do so, let us state it clearly, because of historical and cultural frustrations that have not been faced appropriately.

Minister Rojas Galdames also maintained that Latin American countries are currently appearing to demonstrate the germ of a mutual lack of confidence that threatens to severely undermine the bases of an unavoidable coexistence, which we believe should call for great achievements in cooperation and in constructive understanding. He also stated that Latin American countries need to bring their economies to the same level through the growth mechanisms that each country believes are adequate for its own good. This reaffirmation of principles, he said, could demand great initiatives, such as the implementation of a court for obligatory peaceful solutions along with a means for disarmament within the continent. This will also allow us to merge our energies for increased economic development and a decided regional cooperation and integration, a situation that would once again serve as a world example.

MINISTRY REPORTEDLY TO LET CONTRERAS RETURN

PY071232 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1653 GMT 1 Dec 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- According to his lawyer, the Interior Ministry has authorized the return of Jaime Contreras, a former air force corporal, who 11 days ago was stopped from entering the country after 8 years in exile.

The ministry agreed to modify the 19 November resolution that prohibited Contreras from entering Chile when returning from the GDR with his wife and three children, lawyer Gustavo Villalobos said. Contreras' family remained in Chile, while he continued on to Buenos Aires.

The former corporal was sentenced to 1 year in prison when he did not turn up at his unit on 11 September 1973, when the armed forces overthrew the deceased Socialist president, Salvador Allende. He traveled to the GDR after he had completed his sentence.

A committee has been set up by the government to study the situation of the Chileans who are not allowed to return after they went into exile or were expelled from the country. The committee will most probably submit its first report to President Augusto Pinochet before the end of the year.

PREFERENTIAL EXCHANGE RATE EARNINGS REGULATED

PY071343 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpt] The Finance Ministry has established a new regulation regarding the use of the preferential dollar rate by government enterprises and services. These enterprises must return to the Central Bank any difference resulting from exchange rate differences. The Finance Ministry regulation specifies that this deposit must be made in local currency.

BRIEFS

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT -- According to the economic and financial report issued by the Central Bank on 15 October 1982, the balance of payments has registered a $1,163,400,000 deficit, while the balance of trade has registered a $98,000,000 surplus. Central Bank reserves have dropped by $1,248,800,000 so far this year. [Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 11 Nov 82 Economic Section p 1 PY]

STATE-RUN ENTERPRISES SALE -- The Chilean Government has announced that it will call for bids for the purchase of five state-run enterprises, namely, Compania Interoceanica, Telex Chile, Chilectra, Compania de Telefonos and Cap Mineria. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 Nov 82 pp A-1, A-2 PY]

FOREIGN LOANS FIGURE -- The Central Bank reports that Chile has obtained foreign loans for $43.8 million during the first half of November. The Central Bank also reports that foreign loans totalled $862,900,000 from January to 19 November 1982. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Nov 82 p B 1 PY]

ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR -- The Chilean Government yesterday accepted the appointment of Cesar Valdivieso Chiriboga as Ecuadorean ambassador plenipotentiary to Chile. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Nov 82 p C 3 PY]

GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING OIL SALE WITH USSR

PA080141 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0001 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] Quito, 7 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Ecuadorean Government announced today that it is negotiating the sale of 18,000 to 20,000 barrels of oil daily to the Soviet Union. Industries, Commerce and Integration Minister Orlando Alcivar, who returned from Moscow last week, said today at a press conference that the first stage of the negotiations has been completed and that the details will be worked out by the State Oil Enterprises.

Ecuador produces a daily average of 200,000 barrels of oil of which it exports 50 percent to U.S., Brazilian and South Korean markets. Ecuador is one of OPEC's less important members.

VALENCIA REAFFIRMS STAND ON BORDER DISPUTE

PA080218 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0015 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Quito, 7 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Today Ecuador reiterated its rejection of the Peruvian position that landmarks be placed along the 78-km border strip between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Luis Valencia made the announcement this afternoon noting that the Peruvian Foriegn Ministry "is again resuming its position that the only problem between Ecuador and Peru is the simple placing of a few landmarks in the Condor Mountains."

In a press conference Valencia said that his country is "permanently disposed to finding a fair and honorable solution to this problem, exclusively through the peaceful means provided for by international law." "It is therefore absolutely necessary for Ecuador and Peru to undertake serious and positive negotiations, to which end the assistance and understanding offered by friendly nations will be invaluable," he stated.

NEW HEALTH MINISTER SARRAZIN TAKES OFFICE

PA080208 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] New Health Minister Luis Enrique Sarrazin Davila took office today in a ceremony in the Health Ministry. He replaces Francisco Huerta Montalvo who resigned some days ago.

In a speech, the new minister said he will continue the policies of his predecessor with regard to the prevention, immunization and treatment of diseases for all Ecuadoreans since the health tasks should be guided by the mind but accompanied by the heart. Sarrazin Davila stressed that he will respect the job security of the ministry's workers. He said he will devote great efforts to health infrastructures, cleaning up the environment and strengthening the program of people's drugstores which benefits the whole country.

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON BORDER DISPUTE

PY071944 Paris AFP in Spanish 2224 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 6 Dec (AFP) -- Peru today stated that the only dispute it has with Ecuador stems from Ecuador's reluctance to conclude the demarcation of a 78 km-long stretch of the border. This statement is included in a communique released by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry in the wake of a joint declaration signed by the Argentine and Ecuadorean foreign ministers. The communique was signed during a visit that the Ecuadorean foreign minister paid to Argentina.

The Peruvian communique quotes a paragraph of the Argentine-Ecuadorean joint declaration stating that the Argentine foreign minister listened to a thorough report by the Ecuadorean foreign minister on Ecuador's position regarding its dispute with Peru. The Argentine foreign minister also expressed Argentina's continuing willingness, because of its international commitments, to help find solutions to any problems that might arise between two friendly nations, with a view to securing friendship, peace and cooperation in Latin America.

Because Peru was cited in the declaration, the communique adds, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry deems it necessary to state the following:

1. The only dispute between Ecuador and Peru stems from Ecuador's reluctance to conclude the demarcation of a 78 km-long stretch of the border at Condor Range.

2. Peru understands that the international commitments referred to in the aid offer made by the Republic of Argentina stem from Argentina's position as a signatory country and as guarantor of the Protocol of Peace, Friendship and Border Demarcation signed in Rio de Janeiro on 29 January 1942. This protocol establishes the duties and procedures for completing the demarcation.

It was recalled here that Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States are the guarantors of the protocol, which was signed by Peru and Ecuador following a war waged between the two countries. Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States played the role of guarantors in February 1981 as a result of another armed confrontation between the two countries, which took place precisely along the border at the Condor Range.

ROK PRIME MINISTER TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT

PY072005 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Nov 82 p A 4

[Excerpt] South Korean Prime Minister Kim Sang hyop will make an official visit to Peru between 10 and 14 December, the foreign minister reported yesterday. The visit will be made on an invitation extended by Manuel Ulloa, chairman of the Council of Ministers. During his visit to Peru, the distinguished Korean guest will meet with high-ranking government officials. He will also visit Cusco and Machu Picchu.

APRA LEADER CRITICIZES BELAUNDE GOVERNMENT

PY072128 LIMA EXPRESO in Spanish 29 Nov 82 p 2

[Text] Alan Garcia, secretary general of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA], reported yesterday that suit will be filed against the government of the Popular Action Party in December, "which has done nothing in favor of the people and has relinquished the national economy to foreign economic powers."

The speech made by the political leader, with the impassioned and tacit dialogue with the audience which are characteristic of him, was delivered during a political meeting held yesterday in a movie theater in Lima.

The place was filled with party members, most of them young. It was a show of strong criticism against the government of Fernando Belaunde Terry.

What has the government of the Popular Action Party done for the poor? What has it done to increase the standard of living of the common man? What has it done to increase wages to allow the poor to have a decent life? Alan Garcia asked several times. The audience chorused negative replies to the questions.

The top APRA leader, who was accompanied by outstanding leaders and representatives, harshly criticized the constitutional government. He also referred to the plans to sign the law of the sea convention, linking this subject to alleged surrendering to foreign powers not only the natural resources but the national economy as well.

The political speech, which fully pleased the audience who continuously greeted Garcia's remarks with applause and slogans, ended with lengthy applause and warm embraces, to which the leader responded with his characteristic smile.

TERRORISTS MURDER PROFESSOR IN LLUCITA

PY071802 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Nov 82 p A 15

[Text] Ayacucho, 10 Nov -- A group of terrorists yesterday attacked the home of a professor in Llucita District, Victor Fajardo Province. The terrorists murdered the professor.

Last night, at about 2200 [0200 GMT], approximately 10 hooded individuals entered the home of professor Aurea Quispe Ortega, 32. After pulling the professor out of bed and hitting her, the terrorists shot her in the head three times. It is presumed that the professor was murdered on account of her refusing to join the terrorist group which is carrying out devastating attacks in the region.

Hubert Moscoso Torres, departmental education director, traveled to Lima today to inform the Education Ministry of the terror campaign waged by the terrorists against teachers and professors.

TERRORIST ACTIONS SPREAD TO PUNO DEPARTMENT

PY071333 Paris AFP in Spanish 0244 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 6 Dec (AFP) -- It was reported here today that Peruvian terrorist gangs have spread their actions to Puno Department, on the border with Bolivia.

An armed group, one of whose members was dressed in a police uniform, last Tuesday occupied the village of Tiramaza, in Azangaro Province, Puno Department.

The group captured Governor Juan German Vilca, made him stand a popular trial in the local school and executed him in the presence of several residents of the village. This news was disclosed today in Puno, capital of Puno Department. Azangaro is some 500 km southeast of Ayacucho, focal point for the operations of the Shining Path, a terrorist group which follows Pol Pot's ideology.

NICARAGUAN OFFICIALS MEET WITH DE LA MADRID

FL071258 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0215 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid today expressed solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution and showed concern over achieving peace in the Central American area. Thus asserted Henry Ruiz, Nicaragua's planning minister, after his delegation paid a courtesy call on the Mexican president at the Los Pinos residence.

Participating in the meeting with the Mexican President were: Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Nicaragua's Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaragua's Domestic Trade Minister Dionisio Marence, FSLN delegate Jose Leon Talavera, Mexico's Ambassador to Nicaragua Augusto Gomez Villanueva, and Nicaragua's Ambassador to Mexico Mauricio Cuadra.

Minister Henry Ruiz told the Mexican press that no specific matters of Mexican-Nicaraguan relations were discussed during the meeting with President Miguel de la Madrid, that they only conveyed to him their solidarity and greetings, wishing him success in his administration.

In response to reporters, he emphasized the Nicaraguan people's concern over the arms buildup being carried out by the Reagan administration in Central America.

He said that Nicaragua lives under the permanent threat of aggression, particularly now that the U.S. Government has offered military aid to Guatemala.

He indicated that the incidents of sporadic shooting -- fortunately without serious consequences -- continue along the northern border with Honduras.

He emphasized that his country will continue to maintain a very active foreign policy in the struggle for peace and that the Nicaraguan people will continue to be the main force in facing foreign attacks.

The Nicaraguan planning minister said: We are trying to lead the greatest number of countries possible toward a peace agreement. More important than preventing military aid, the most important thing is to achieve peace.

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN EXPORTS -- The Office of the Secretary of Planning and Budget announced today that Mexico's exports increased by 2 percent between January and September of this year. This increase in exports represents an additional $15 billion, according to the same office. Most of these exports went to the United States and the EEC countries, as well as to various Latin American countries. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Nov 82 PA]

COLUMNIST URGES DISTRUST OF REAGAN POLICIES

PA051935 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Dec 82 p 6-A

Column by Joaquin Beleno: "Beware of Reagan"

[Text] I am asking my leaders to be very, very careful with Reagan and to weigh carefully the programs in which he wants to involve us, because his lack of credibility increases with each passing day. For months now, Reagan has been announcing the 'infalibility" of his economic program, yet the Voice of America has just announced that unemployment in the United States has risen to 10.8 percent, the highest rate not only since World War II, but since World War I.

At present there are 12 million unemployed people in the United States, and almost all of the country's industries continue to dismiss their employees. Both the Democrats and the unions have described this as "a national shame."

Thus I ask President Ricardo de la Espriella and Gen Ruben Dario Paredes to stay firmly on solid ground when dealing with President Reagan because his tour to several Latin American countries reaffirms the U.S. strategy of negotiating bilaterally with the hemispheric countries rather than multilaterally. We Panamanians know from experience that every time we negotiate bilaterally with the United States we come out the losers, while they fail to fulfill the agreements reached.

The Republican leaders have never done anything good for either Panama or the Panamanians, even though there were Panamanians who dreamed about Reagan's rise to power just so that Omar Torrijos would have have Jimmy Carter's support. Today we are worse off than before, because whenever the United States experiences a crisis, Panama is automatically affected. The fact that Roosevelt's tactic of improvising jobs by constructing and repairing the roads is being resorted to once again proves that the U.S. crisis will not be overcome in 1983.

This is why I ask for a lot of caution in dealing with Reagan, because if he is not doing any good for his own people, we citizens of other countries can expect even less from him. For instance, we have the case of Peru, which has been experiencing a bad crisis since its textile industry was practically eliminated from the U.S. markets. Something similar could happen to us Panamanians.

Reagan just announced that El Salvador has made extraordinary progress in the area of human rights. He says this just in order to be able to sell weapons to it and to isolate both Cuba and Nicaragua against the opinion held by Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico. The statistics on the Salvadoran slaughter during 1982 show that the genocide perpetrated by "Magana and his piranhas" has in no way decreased.

The most recent elections proved the weakness of Reagan's programs and showed that in large and small states alike people all over the United States rejected these programs. There is good reason to assume that the President will have trouble gaining a second term. Should we embark with the Republicans and Reagan?

If the United States is experiencing a crisis, we should not be afraid either to discuss here the problems inherent to the crisis or to take the firmest and most sensible measures to prevent a national collapse like the one experienced by Costa Rica. We must confront the U.S. and European recessions firmly, but we must beware of these countries' proposals because none of the things they say or do can be to our advantage, since whatever they do or say is intended to save themselves. Let's be very careful, please....

Let's not tie ourselves to Reagan's theatrical spontaneity in announcing that prosperity is just around the corner, and let us think and act realistically, realizing that the present situation will last a long time and that its consequences will inevitably shake us.

In both business and jobs, we must give top priority to Panamanians. Panamanians have no jobs because the foreigners here in Panama are taking these jobs away from them before the indifferent gaze of unions, authorities and corregimiento representatives. A Panamanian can no longer open a small grocery store because the Chinese imported to cultivate the soil control that market. Are they perhaps waiting for Arnulfo Arias to become president again so he can nationalize the retail trade?

We must act firmly. We must deal with Reagan firmly without allowing him to seduce us with his studied theatrics. Beware of Reagan because, we repeat, he cannot love Panamanians and Latin Americans in general better than his own countrymen.

COLUMNIST CLAIMS REAGAN HAS CHANGED FOCUS

PA071955 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Dec 82 p 9-A

["The People's Compass" column by Adolfo Benedetti: "Reagan and Latin America"]

[Text] The recent trip to Latin America of the President of the United States clearly made evident how Mr Reagan has changed his focus on the nations of the hemisphere since the campaign days when his political platform was announced. That platform called for a harsh policy based especially on the old claims about U.S. rights.

Now that Reagan is responsible for the White House and is facing the problems of a hemisphere practically on fire, he has found himself forced to live with the true situation, to learn directly about the Latin American drama, about all the force of its tragic revolutionary destiny and about the violence arising with the flames of rebellion in the Indian America.

The responsibilities the U.S. President has with regard to America have increased tremendously, because now the President has seen with his own eyes the huge transformation taking place in millions of human beings. This trip should serve him as an admonition of what could happen if his country does not adopt the measures that common sense indicates to overcome the serious maladjustments that are hurting entire nations and that unite them in their pains and in their decision to die rather than to surrender to the impositions of traditional exploitation.

The trip was a historic commitment and presented the idea of a continent united to defend its common interests and a better future. The trip has served to project the strength of a Latin America that is beginning to move like a giant who is waking up after being asleep for centuries. The time for will and decision has arrived, and history is registering reactions of the people and of the forces that dominate them. Either the two prepare to understand each other, or they will have to prepare to exterminate each other.

5 HELD IN COLUMBIA FOR GUERRILLA ACTION RETURN

PA042316 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 3 Dec 82

[Excerpt] The five Panamanian guerrillas who were detained in Colombia returned to Panama at 1030 today on an Air Panama flight. Rene Hernandez has this report:

[Begin recording] A large number of students, relatives and friends were at the Omar Torrijos International Airport to receive Roberto Garrido, Ricardo Quintero, Mario Concepcion, Teodoro Hunt and Pablo Fernandez, all Panamanians who had been held in Colombian jails for more than a year on the charge of having participated in alleged subversive activities.

The five Panamanians were accompanied by Jorge Eduardo Ritter, our ambassador to Colombia, and were received by our deputy foreign minister.

The five, who were released as a result of the amnesty law signed by Colombian President Belisario Betancur, said that a large sector of the Colombian Army opposed their release, which forced them to remain in jail for an additional 2 weeks after the amnesty law was signed. [end recording]

CONTRERAS, OTHER GUARD OFFICIALS TO RETIRE

PA072316 Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 2248 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Communique issued by the National Guard's Public Relations Directorate on 7 December 1982 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The National Guard's Public Relations Directorate announces that the commander in chief and his general staff, within the normal evolvement of the institution, have received and accepted retirement requests from several chiefs and officers who submitted these requests in accordance with rights granted to them by the National Guard's Law No 44. They submitted these requests following meritorious careers and professional service of 25 years or more. These retirements will become effective on 15 December:

Col Armando Abel Contreras, chief of the general staff

Lt Col Margarita Arango de Ferrufino, chief of El Paco commissary

Maj (Antonio Vasquez) of the National Guard's Traffic Directorate

Capt (Guillermo Avila) of the National Guard's Traffic Directorate

Capt (Jose Perez) of the police corps

Lt (Alfonso Rodriguez) of the police corps

Lt (Hermenegildo Anria of the police corps

Lt (Raul Urriola) of the police corps.

On 15 December the National Guard command will announce the promotions to fill these vacancies on the occasion of the symbolic day, 16 December, on which our armed institution commemorates loyalty day in the memory of Div Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera.

[Signed] Maj Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, chief of public relations

COSTA RICA

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL LEADERS MEET MONCE

PA062200 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] The highest leaders of the Socialist International, which is comprised of the world's social democratic political parties, arrived in Costa Rica yesterday to meet with President Luis Alberto Monge and other political leaders. The social democratic delegation is headed by Bernt Carlsson, secretary general of the Socialist International; Carlos Andres Perez, Former Venezuelan President; Mario Soares, former Portuguese prime minister; and Anselmo Sule of the Chilean Radical Party. The delegation also includes leaders of Canada, the FRG and the Caribbean. They met for several hours with President Monge and former President Daniel Oduber.

The delegation is carrying out a mission to analyze the evolution of the Nicaraguan revolution. This mission was decided on during the latest Socialist International meeting in Switzerland. As a result, the delegation is compiling information from political leaders and other sectors in various countries including Mexico, Nicaragua and the United States.

The Socialist International leaders have visited Managua, to which they will return after a brief stay in San Jose. They will then continue on to Mexico and Washington.

Yesterday, the social democratic leaders made no comments when they arrived in the country or after they met with President Monge. They said they will hold a news conference this morning to report to journalists on the subjects they discussed and the objectives of their tour of several countries of the continent.

For his part, the Costa Rican president said that on Monday a written statement will be issued on the subjects discussed with the leaders of the Socialist International.

EXISTENCE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS DENIED

PA071755 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1246 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] San Jose, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa' Rican Government has sent a note to the Latin American Human Rights Commission in Washington in which it rejected charges of the alleged existence of "political prisoners."

The complaint against Luis Alberto Monge's government referred to an "excessive delay and sluggishness in legal proceedings," intended to indefinitely extend the incarceration of "political prisoners."

Justice Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez left for Washington yesterday carrying judicial and administrative documents to prove that the alleged political prisoners are being tried for common crimes.

Thus, Foreign Minister Fernando Volio noted, the Human Rights Commission will confirm that "the defendants in question are being prosecuted for crimes of illegal association, possession of explosive materials, attempted arson, resisting arrest, breaking and entering, embezzlement and forgery.

The documents, the foreign minister added, also prove that these people are under protective custody at the instructions of the legal authorities and that the charges against them have nothing to do with political ideology.

In addition, as evidence that the charge is not true, the foreign minister noted that Costa Rica "expressly waives" the delaying legal exceptions to which it is entitled, resorting to the Latin American Human Rights Commission even before all domestic resources are exhausted.

Finally, the government invited the commission to send a mission or to come in full to Costa Rica to investigate the charges firsthand with absolute freedom of action.

FOREIGN MINISTER PLANS DECEMBER CARIBBEAN TOUR

PA030448 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Dec 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez will begin a tour of several Caribbean countries on 13 December. This is part of the Costa Rican Government's efforts to strengthen its friendly economic and commercial relations with this region. Foreign Minister Volio will visit the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Saint Lucia. During his 2-day visit in each country, he will meet with its foreign minister and head of state.

The tour will last over 2 weeks, during which time Volio will inform these countries' governments about the goals of the Forum for Peace and Democracy, which seeks to achieve peace in Central America.

EL SALVADOR

ALVARO MAGANA ON TOPICS OF REAGAN TALKS

PA071548 San Salvador DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 6 Dec 82 pp 9, 17

[By Rafael Mora Maza]

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica -- Dr Alvaro Magana, the president of the republic, called in this city for U.S. understanding of El Salvador's problems.

Among other things, he mentioned the country's economic problems, although he said he had not come to Costa Rica to ask anyone for anything. He noted the problems caused by terrorism and the resulting destruction of the country's infrastructure, particularly the loss of human life. He also asked for understanding of the Salvadoran judicial system, which differs from those of other countries. For example, one such difference is that the statement of one defendant cannot be used against another defendant.

President Magana met with Costa Rican and Salvadoran newsmen at his residence in Las Flores, near the Cariari Hotel, where he had met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan a few minutes earlier.

The two heads of state signed a joint communique following their 1-hour talk. Costa Rican, U.S. and Salvadoran newsmen were invited to attend that meeting in groups. President Reagan praised the Salvadoran people's courage, their faith in democratic ideals as expressed during the recent elections, and their decision to hold presidential elections no later than March 1984. He also expressed satisfaction with the Salvadoran Government's efforts to reduce the number of violent deaths, despite the opposition of antidemocratic forces. Similarly, he noted his satisfaction with the ongoing agrarian reform program.

President Reagan, however, was also clear and emphatic in expressing his concern with the trial of those involved in the murder of U.S. citizens in El Salvador and urged the authorities to make every possible effort to punish those who killed the U.S. nuns and the AFL-CIO advisers and those responsible for the disappearance of other U.S. citizens.

The two leaders assessed the Central American situation and voiced their concern over the high tension in the area.

They also rejected the use of force in the resolution of bilateral conflicts, interference in other states' internal affairs and the violent imposition of alien ideologies and systems that contradict democratic societies.

President Reagan referred to the interests of the U.S. people and government in cooperating with the Salvadoran Government's domestic efforts.

"I am pleased at the way in which several issues of mutual interest were discussed," Magana said, "particularly involving the Central American situation and the U.S. support for the government's development plans and its desire to achieve peace, justice, democracy and economic welfare in El Salvador.

"We are sure that the Salvadoran Government's efforts have met with considerable satisfaction on the part of the U.S. head of state."

Magana also spoke of the recent creation of the Human Rights Commission, composed, in his words, of persons of known ability, honesty and civic merit.

Magana pointed out that he was very satisfied to be able to say that President Reagan is aware of the government's efforts to reduce the number of people being affected by violence, "particularly by promoting a better understanding of the problem among the members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces."

Magana indicated that the Salvadoran people are determined to achieve both peace and the full exercise of participative democracy. The preparation for presidential and municipal elections no later than 28 March 1984, Magana added, are signs that mark the path to democracy.

He also stressed the creation of the Peace Commission, acknowledging the importance attached by the Salvadoran Government to the fact that those in armed rebellion and who have rejected appeals to join the democratic process may yet participate in the advance of democracy, permanent peace and harmonious coexistence, on the basis of the nation's reunification.

FMLN CAPTIVES ALLEGEDLY GETTING REBEL TRAINING

PA072144 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1944 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Some 90 youths remain in the hands of the guerrillas who kidnapped them on Sunday from the town of San Sebastian, San Vicente Department.

The San Vicente Department National Guard told ACAN-EFE that some 28 of the 118 captives had been able to escape in the past few hours.

The sources also said that the youths who escaped said that those who are still being held are being trained in guerrilla warfare, adding that there are some pregnant women among the captives.

The San Vicente National Guard reported that the kidnapping was carried out by nine heavily armed unidentified men who were escorted by another group whose number was unknown and who fired several warning shots. The military sources added that the youths are possibly being held in camps in the El Coyol Canton near Santa Clara in San Vicente.

The San Sebastian mayor's office reported that the youths who returned were sick and tired and that they are all being questioned in San Vicente, the departmental capital.

San Sebastian is a town with approximately 7,000 residents. It is located 40 km east of San Salvador.

In the past few broadcasts, Radio Venceremos, the guerrilla station, has given no information on this mass kidnapping for which the FMLN claims credit.

ARMY RECOVERS STRATEGIC POSITIONS NEAR CORINTO

PA052356 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Approximately 3,000 soldiers of the Belloso, Atlacatl, Atonal and Jaguar Battalions and other troops have been involved in a large operation in Morazan Department for 2 weeks. Late Saturday the troops recovered strategic positions near Corinto.

Corinto fell into rebel hands in mid-October. According to military sources, the guerrillas sustained at least 25 casualties. However, the number of army casualties was not disclosed. Military sources in San Miguel said the media will have to wait for a communique from the Armed Forces Press Committee in order to learn about these casualties.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting continued today in towns north of San Francisco Gotera and Santa Rosa de Lima, particularly in towns on the border with Honduras. Military sources told this station that the actions have spread to northern Morazan Department because the entire northern sector in La Union Department is already under army control.

Thus far Honduran troops have not participated in action in this country as recently reported by certain sectors of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement.

ARMY SAYS GUERRILLAS DISLODGED FROM LA UNION

PA072220 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 6 Dec 82 p 1

[Excerpt] San Miguel, 6 Dec -- The thousands who fled the northern region of La Union and a large part of Morazan when they were occupied by terrorist bands can now return to their devastated and looted communities, a high-ranking military chief told EL MUNDO.

The source said the "cleanup" operation in that region ended on Saturday with the destruction of guerrilla camps in the cantons of El Tablon, Calavera and Varilla Negra in the jurisdiction of Sociedad and Corralitos in Corinto, Morazan Department.

The towns of Lislique, Anamoros, Nueva Esparta, Corinto and Monteca have been freed of terrorism and looting by the Atonal and Chaparrastique Battalions. It has been confirmed that, besides the looting of stores and wealthier homes, there was also cattle rustling -- more than 1,600 head of cattle were stolen. The source said some of the cattle were recovered.

The source added that in the encircling action in Corinto, the extremists' "quick-strike" battalion was destroyed. It sustained more than 100 casualties. The source said that "all those urban and rural communities have been swept clean of terrorists. The people who abandoned those areas can now return home since troops are protecting them."

CORRECTION TO ASSESSMENT OF REAGAN VISIT

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Meaning, Impact of Reagan Visit Assessed," published in the 2 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, P 5, second paragraph, line six reads:

... northern country, the church wants to influence .. (rewording)

GUATEMALA

RESULTS OF REAGAN MEETING 'EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL'

PA071940 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] President Efrain Rios Montt returned to the country today from a tour of Central American countries where he met with the presidents of El Salvador and Honduras and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Presidential spokesman Rafael Escobar Arguello said today that Rios Montt is satisfied with the results of his talks with his counterparts. He said that the results of the dialogue with Reagan will be seen next year.

[Begin Escobar Arguello recording] The president arrived around noon today. My office was told that he is very satisfied with the success of his mission, not only in Central America, where he met with the Salvadoran and Honduran presidents, but with Mr Reagan. This leads us to believe that Guatemala has taken an important step to end the isolation it has been suffering. In addition, there were excellent results from the Reagan meeting, which will be seen next year. [end recording]

Escobar Arguello confirmed what this newscast reported at noon today: There was no special ceremony for Rios Montt's return.

[Begin Escobar Arguello recording] There was no special ceremony because he resumed his duties immediately upon his return. The top officials did greet him at the airport. He talked to them, and I believe that he will expand his report to the next cabinet meeting. [end recording]

HONDURAS

REAGAN ACCUSED OF IGNORING SUAZO'S APPEAL

PA071938 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Station commentary: "Visit by U.S. President Reagan Results in Unspecified Actions"]

[Excerpts] The visit by U.S. President Ronald Reagan left many people with their mouths open, especially those who thought the U.S. President would make a speech in Honduran territory and unveil a huge economic aid program.

The policy of the Reagan administration is to restrain the commercial activities that traditionally had allowed Honduras' few products to sustain the Honduran economy.

Honduras is enduring a reduction in its sugar, beef, coffee and wood exports to the United States because the U.S. Government, instead of increasing quotas on those products, has cut them in such a way that all the Honduran technocrats' predictions of economic improvement have proved wrong.

It is ironic that, a few hours before coming to Honduras, President Reagan said in Costa Rica that the success of democratic coexistence lies in international commercial activities. Apparently President Reagan forgot that Honduras is now in a losing position with regard to its trade with the United States. The abstract way President Reagan responded to President Suazo Cordova's urgent appeal makes it clear to us that the United States doesn't understand the dangerous situation we face.

Extreme poverty, ignorance and the alarming state of hunger in Honduras are not a source of concern in Washington. The only thing they find suitable there is to feed arms to our armed forces so that at any given moment they can support a conflict.

Perhaps it is too early to make predictions, since only a few hours have passed since President Reagan concluded his tour. However, we believe that any announcement would have logically been made at a ceremony which the U.S. President, by his very presence, turned into a solemn occasion. However, all President Reagan said was that he admires President Suazo Cordova's effort to give the Honduran people the benefits of a democratic regime, thus ignoring the almost dramatic appeal that President Suazo Cordova included in his message, where he admits that while it is true that the people went to the polls full of hope to elect a constitutional government, those same people could also feel frustrated if the government -- because of the economic crisis in Honduras -- could not in due time realize their aspirations for social justice.

We are open-mouthed, realizing that President Reagan came to prove his good-will toward us with a brief little speech for savanna dwellers [peasants]. That is no justification for putting the entire country under severe tension through the adoption of security measures so stringent that all activities were paralyzed last week in preparation for the arrival of President Reagan.

FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDS TO NICARAGUAN PROTEST

PA071722 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Note dated 1 December 1982 sent by Foreign Affairs Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Acting Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Minister Nora Astorga -- read by announcer]

[Text] I have the honor of acknowledging receipt of Your Excellency's note of 25 November 1982, which referred to several armed incidents in Nueva Segovia, the Republic of Nicaragua, which, as stated, took place between Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary elements and troops of the Sandinist People's Army.

Based on these events, Your Excellency presented a most stern protest to the Honduran Government and asserted that my government's permissiveness in regard to this situation and the complicity of vast sectors of the Honduran Armed Forces require, under the current circumstances, something more than pious statements and good-will visits.

You added that the serious responsibility that the Honduran Government has as a result of this permissive attitude, which violates the most elementary principles of international law, is, in addition, consistent with and complementary to the other decision made by the Honduran Government to reject, without any cause or reason, the peace initiatives intended to find peaceful and concrete solutions to the current situation.

Your Excellency concluded by charging that the Honduran Government would seem to be in agreement with the militaristic and warmongering plans to turn our countries into a bloody battlefield, thereby paving the way to foreign military intervention in the region.

Allow me, Your Excellency, to respond as follows:

Once more, my government registers its respect for the principle of nonintervention in other states' affairs and for the right of self-determination of peoples. Consequently, it rejects the futile and repeated attempts by the Nicaraguan Government to involve the Honduran Government in the struggle in which it is internally engaged with its own citizens. In this sense, my government reiterates its determination to maintain and reinforce the most absolute neutrality toward conflicts plaguing its neighboring countries and to make this determination known to these peoples and governments through what Your Excellency contemptuously described as pious statements and good-will visits.

It is obvious, however, that visits will invariably be ineffectual if our message of peace and understanding is prevented from reaching the citizens because of government censorship of the press and electronic media.

The Honduran Government's policy is consistent internally and internationally, because it is characterized at both levels by its respect for the law, particularly for the rules that guarantee human coexistence within a framework of freedom and justice. These are the foundations of the proposal for internationalizing peace in Central America that was submitted by my government to the OAS Permanent Council on 23 March 1982, less than 2 months after it took power by the will of the majority of the Honduran people, which was freely expressed through suffrage.

Since then, this proposal has been endorsed by many countries in America and Europe, a fact that reaffirms the validity of its concepts. The fact that Nicaragua does not find it acceptable is understandable, because Nicaragua seeks not only to solve the problems faced by its own government but to solve those of the entire region as well. In addition, the proposal imposes mutual obligations on the states and their respective peoples that perhaps the Nicaraguan Government cannot or does not wish to comply with. However, this does not justify in any way whatsoever Your Excellency's assertion that my government has rejected the peace initiatives that have been submitted, because this simply does not reflect reality.

I find it surprising, to use your euphemism, that Your Excellency says that the Honduran Government seems to be promoting foreign military intervention in the region. It is certainly not Honduras that already contains several thousand foreign military advisers, whose mere presence could be interpreted as an act of intervention on the part of countries that are ruled by systems that contradict pluralist and participatory democracy and that have no place in Central America.

What is most worrisome is that the Nicaraguan Government seems to regard this situation as normal and expects the area's democratic regimes to view it without concern.

Finally, Your Excellency, I wish to say to you that, notwithstanding the traditional respect that my government has shown for peaceful means of settling international controversies, we believe, at least at this moment, that there is no controversy between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The difference that unfortunately exist are capable of being settled through negotiation, provided, of course, that this is done willingly and in good faith, through the frank and respectful dialogue that the Honduran Government promotes and practices.

I beg you to accept my highest consideration.

[Signed] Edgardo Paz Barnica, foreign affairs secretary.

NICARAGUA

REAGAN LATIN AMERICA VISIT 'NOT SUCCESSFUL'

PA071934 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Dec 82 p 3

[Leonel Urbano article: "Two Trips, Two Options"]

[Text] Reagan has concluded his journey and there is speculation everywhere about the results of this trip, which obviously involved political intentions. Undoubtedly, the U.S. President came with the intention of attempting to readjust the so-called inter-American system, to strengthen his continental alliances and at the same time to try to consolidate his position with the U.S. public, in an effort to obtain more support for his already well-known plans.

So, what did he accomplish? The question of the crisis in the inter-American system, which opened like a wound when Reagan himself supported the United Kingdom in its attack on the Malvinas, was approached only indirectly, at least as far as known publicly. However, the fact that this issue was avoided -- beyond seeming a deliberate attempt to avoid adding more fuel to a debate in which the United States will always find itself condemned -- does not do away with question.

It was not coincidental that Reagan chose Brazil and Colombia. The Brazilian Government, once a favorite ally, has kept its distance from Washington on foreign policy matters for some time now. The speech made by President Gen Joao Figueiredo at the last UN General Assembly condemning U.S. economic policies was the other side of the problem. Let us say that none of these matters were settled. In addition, Brasilia has persistently been critical of the White House because of the Malvinas issue. The stopover in Colombia was not accidental either, because the change of administration in Bogota represented a turnabout in Colombia's stand on the inter-American system's crisis, as Colombia joined most of the hemisphere in criticizing the Anglo-American attack in the South Atlantic. The questions that President Belisario Betancur posed to Reagan went beyond expectations. Colombia joined Brazil in its refusal to support interventionist adventures in Central America. Thus, his trip to this area did not turn out to be easy for Reagan.

Evidently, the decision to stop in two countries with elected governments was not haphazard either. It is very difficult to visit countries where the regimes that are the closest U.S. allies and the most consistent supporters of U.S. policies are rejected even by the U.S. press. However, the maneuver worked to the extent that representatives of tehse regimes were glossed over in secondhand interviews carried out for them in places where they don't govern anyway.

The alliance that Reagan tried to knit in Central America is not free of contradictions and internal disputes. The fact that he blessed everyone with his same old anti-communist song, the binding element, does not solve the Central American nations' economic problems or the crisis in their political system.

We also have to take into account the fact that the United States is waging a war in El Salvador and that its cost -- not just its economic cost -- is becoming increasingly burdensome. To these unavoidable circumstances that Reagan was forced to face in Central and South America, we must add the decline in his own principles, because in order to get to each place he had to stage an operation that -- in addition to inconveniencing the local people and resulting in so many injuries, tension and even a death in Honduras -- kept him in secrecy, covered only by the cameras and the television networks. The smiling photographs and the great speeches and banquets retransmitted over a network to his own country cannot hide from the U.S. Congress the fact that their President must travel almost as a prisoner in order to visit Latin America. Congressmen are the first link within U.S. politics who must support or reject the President's policies. Aside from his most fanatic and unconditional political friends, the situation in this congress, which approves or disapproves his aid programs, is very uncomfortable for him. Now Reagan returns without any demonstration of appreciation on the continent, barring a few premeditated toasts and the repetitive echo of declarations from allies who didn't require the visit to offer him praise.

If Reagan was not successful in attaining the goals he had in mind, he was even less successful in his attempt to isolate Nicaragua, because, to the contrary and despite his maneuvers, Nicaragua was honored once more by the visit of a top level delegation from the Socialist International, which is interested not in promoting instability and war, but in achieving cooperation and peace.

The world can appreciate the antagonism between the two policies and the paradoxical fact that one comes from an imperialist power and the other from a small nation that is trying to reconstruct the country and recover its dignity through the revolution amid great difficulties. This only makes the contrast more obvious. The Sandinist revolution, with its own character, finds a common language in the various international political schools of thought: peace, progress, justice and cooperation. In contrast to the monotony of anticommunist speeches and armed attacks, Nicaragua demonstrates the pluralism of its ties and a binding element: peace. The difference between the two sides is clear. We hope that the world will understand, before it is too late, where the only option for its survival lies.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION ARRIVES

PA050148 Managua International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Upon arriving in Nicaragua, Carlos Andres Perez, vice president of the Socialist International, said that since the triumph of the Sandinist revolution the Socialist International has offered the revolution support and solidarity. The political organization has done this so that the effort and sacrifice of the Nicaraguan people will not be frustrated and so that Nicaragua will be able to form a true democracy.

Carlos Andres Perez said this was the purpose of his current visit to Nicaragua. He indicated that his visit will not only be limited to our country, but will also include Costa Rica and Panama, which are part of agreements recently reached at the Socialist International office in Basel.

Cites 'U.S. Discrimination'

PA061719 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] President Reagan demonstrated that his policy decision to isolate Nicaragua is still in effect by discriminating against it in his meetings with area presidents during his recent Central American tour, Carlos Andres Perez, vice president of the Socialist International and coordinator of that organization's visit to Nicaragua, has stated.

The Socialist International delegation held a news conference at the flag room of the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport shortly before leaving for Costa Rica.

The delegation's tour is also to include a visit to Panama, where it will meet with the primary leaders of the political parties in Central America affiliated with the Socialist International, like the ruling National Liberation Party of Costa Rica.

In reply to a question about President Reagan's visit to Central America, former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said:

[Begin recording] We totally disapprove of the discrimination against Nicaragua, because it is absurd. We have no problem with his visit to Costa Rica and Honduras -- for it would have been impossible for the U.S. President to visit every Latin American country -- but the fact that while in those two countries he received the heads of state of El Salvador and Guatemala demonstrates clear discrimination against Nicaragua.

This proves that the U.S. Government is continuing its policy decision to isolate and harass Nicaragua, of which we disapprove, because we hope for greater U.S. understanding of the problems affecting these countries and of means of contributing to their solution. The U.S. Congress is well aware of this situation, as are two of the most important labor organizations in that nation's democratic system, including the AFL-CIO, which gave specific and categorical support to the Venezuelan-Mexican proposal to eliminate the chance of a general conflict in that area of Latin America. [end recording]

Significance Evaluated

PA040435 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Dec 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Another Message for Reagan: The Presence of the Socialist International in Nicaragua"]

[Text] The presence in Nicaragua of the Socialist International delegation led by Carlos Andres Perez, former Venezuelan president and current Socialist International vice president, undoubtedly has importance that exceeds the Sandinist revolution's national boundaries and encompasses all of Latin America.

This delegation includes Bernt Carlsson, secretary general of the Socialist International; vice presidents of the Socialist International for Latin America and the Caribbean, like Anselmo Sule (Chilean) and Michael Manley (Jamaican); and delegates from the social democratic parties of the FRG, France, Sweden, Canada and the Dominican Republic.

The delegation will visit Nicaragua from 3 to 5 December, the very days that U.S. President Ronald Reagan will visit Honduras and Costa Rica.

Obviously, the contrast between the two delegations' goals is tremendous. While the goal of Reagan's visit is to reinforce his military policy in the region and to promote a regional alliance that will allow him to isolate Nicaragua, the Socialist International mission wishes to get a firsthand look at the serious military attacks that the Sandinist revolution is suffering and to promote a solution through the dialogue and negotiation that countries like Mexico, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Brazil and others have proposed as a way of resolving the Central American crisis.

In this regard, the Socialist International delegation's visit is not only evidence of the Sandinist revolution's legitimacy and of the support it has internationally at a time when Reagan is stepping up his diplomatic, economic and military pressure on other governments of the area, but also serves to reinforce the Latin American sectors that are firmly opposed to U.S. intervention in the region and to the false solutions that it wants to impose through military force.

At a meeting held at the Socialist International bureau in Basel, Switzerland, on 4 November in which this organization accepted the FSLN's invitation to visit Nicaragua, both Perez, on behalf of the Latin American parties, and the meeting's final resolutions expressed concern over the attacks from Honduran territory that Nicaragua is enduring and warned that these tensions might result in a U.S. invasion, which could grow into a conflict of worldwide impact.

In this very month of November, tension between Honduras and Nicaragua, instead of decreasing, has been increasing as a result of a new outbreak of provocations by the Honduran Army, the attacks by Somozist counterrevolutionary units in the border area and the reluctance of Suazo Cordova's government to agree to a dialogue with Junta Coordinator Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra for discussion of the two countries' problems within the framework of the Mexican-Venezuelan initiative.

It can be said then that this delegation is arriving in Nicaragua at a crucial moment in Central American history, a moment when the unity of all of the continent's democratic and progressive forces and of the parties and governments of Europe and of the socialist countries assumes special significance as a retaining wall in the face of the Reagan administration's warmongering policies in Central America. The specific contribution that the Socialist International can make in subsequent efforts to promote the initiatives for a dialogue and negotiations with the Costa Rican Government, as well as with the Reagan administration itself, is of incalculable value in the struggle for peace in the region.

The delegation's presence in Nicaragua is based on support for the Sandinist revolution and offers a clear message of rejection to Reagan's imperialist and warmongering positions during his trip to Central America. This message must take the form of a single anti-interventionist bloc that can contribute effectively to peace in the region and to an end to U.S. intervention in the area.

FLAVIO BRAVO, DELEGATION MEET WITH OFFICIALS

FL072020 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] The delegation headed by Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has been received in Managua by members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. During the meeting they discussed matters related to the Nicaraguan revolutionary process and the constant foreign attacks Nicaragua has been suffering.

ADVANCED STUDIES AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

PA040037 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Dec 82

[Text] The National Council for Higher Education [CNES] has signed an important cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union. The agreement was signed by Ernesto Castillo, CNES president, and German Shlyapnikov, Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua. Ernesto Castillo referred to the importance of the agreement:

[Begin recording] We consider this agreement a very positive step that will stimulate both the students who will enter the university and those Nicaraguan professionals who will have the opportunity of further developing their scientific knowledge. Their credit will be recognized in the Soviet Union, so they may take postgraduate courses. [end recording]

EPS ACTION, AIRSPACE VIOLATION REPORTED

PA072211 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] BARRICADA reports today that the Sandinist Peoples Army, EPS, repelled attempts by counterrevolutionary bands from Honduras to enter Nueva Segovia Department in northern Nicaragua. BARRICADA states that counterrevolutionary bands, which suffered several casualties, were supported by men from Honduran territory who fired on Nicaraguan borderguards.

The military chief for the northern area of Nicaragua reported that on Monday night an unidentified airplane violated Nicaragua airspace when it flew over the city of Ocotal.

AUTHORITIES RELEASE HONDURAN FISHERMEN

PA050342 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 3 Dec 82 p 39

[Excerpts] After negotiations by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat, the Nicaraguan authorities yesterday released 16 of the 22 Honduran fishermen who were arrested on board a fishing vessel, supposedly for sailing in Nicaraguan territorial waters.

The return of the Honduran fishermen took place yesterday at Las Manos, Paraiso Department. They were returned by the Nicaraguan immigration authorities in the presence of Lt Manuel Espinal Barahona, the regional chief of the Department of National Investigation in Las Manos.

Only three Hondurans [figure as published] remain in detention in Nicaragua. They are Miguel Puerto, Henry Puerto and Mario Garcia, who are accused of being in charge of the vessel when it was detained and of having murdered Capt William Cobberi, Guillermo Male and Ramon Lopez.

POLICE SEIZE MORE COUNTERFEIT BILLS, DRAFTS

PA020120 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 1 Dec 82

[Text] First Lt (Arnoldo Pastran), chief of economic investigations for the Interior Ministry, today reported that between 1 September and 30 November the Sandinist police seized more than $80,000 in counterfeit bills and drafts from people linked with clandestine moneychangers. At a news conference from the Sandinist television system's (Eddy Berrinos) auditorium, (Pastran) and Companero (Flavio Mendoza), an expert from the ministry's criminal laboratory, gave many details on the investigation and on the origin of the counterfeit dollars.

These dollars were taken out of circulation in Esteli, Matagalpa, Managua and Masaya. They were $10, $20, $50 and $100 bills.

Certain persons were arrested in connection with this case and they will be presented in due time.

It was said that a band organized to produce the counterfeit drafts was discovered and a press to print the false documents was seized.

Many people were victimized by this band and police therefore ask citizens to report any irregularities so that the culprits can be arrested, (Pastran) said in conclusion.

SALVADORAN REFUGEES DEMAND U.S. AID SUSPENSION

PA031840 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Dec 82

[Text] The communities of Salvadoran refugees in Nicaragua, which are grouped under the Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero National Coordinating Board of the People's Church of El Salvador recently sent a letter President Reagan.

The letter demands the suspension of military and economic aid to the Governments of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, the ending of U.S. Government slander of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process, and the suspension of support for the counter-revolutionary gangs. It also demands that the Carter-Torrijos treaty be respected so that Panama will not be used to train the murderers of our people, that the attacks and infamous campaigns against Cuba and Grenada be stopped, and that all military advisers be withdrawn from the Central American armies.

Whenever there is unrest in a country, it is because the U.S. Government is present, said the Salvadoran refugees in their letter to President Reagan.

VOICE OF SANDINO AIRS MESSAGE TO COSTA RICA

PA071734 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] From somewhere in Nicaragua we send the following message to Guanacaste Province in Costa Rica: I tell my parents that I and all of my companeros are well. Our morale is high and we have a good fighting spirit. We are continuing to move forward, without a backward step, until we defeat the totalitarian dictatorship of the nine Nicaraguan traitors. The nine traitors are passing themselves off as Sandinists but they are a group of criminals placed there by Russia and directed by Russia to persecute, incarcerate and kill our people. Free fatherland or death! This message is from Companero (Claicatura).

HAVANA: REAGAN TOUR ROUNDS OUT INTERVENTION PLAN

PA071950 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 6 Dec 82

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan concluded a 6-day [as heard] tour to four Latin American countries over the weekend. He visited Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Honduras and was received by the presidents and other political personalities of those four nations. President Reagan also met with Salvadoran regime chief Alvaro Magana in San Jose and with Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt in San Pedro Sula.

Two fundamental causes propitiated Reagan's visit to Central and South America: first, to erase the bad image left in South America by Washington's support to Great Britain in the conflict over possession of the Malvinas Islands; and second, to complete details of the plan devised by the Pentagon to attack the new Nicaragua and propitiate a large-scale intervention by Honduran troops in the liberation war of the Salvadoran people.

In the first case, the White House chief's initiative did not find fertile ground. His meetings with Brazilian President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo showed clear differences in their political and economic approach. Figuereido clearly invited his host to look for new coexistence formulas which are more authentic and more equitable to the Latin American countries. He favored a peaceful solution to the Central American problem without any foreign intervention or pressure. Columbian President Belisario Betancur expressed a similar opinion. He expressed his disagreement with present U.S. policy on Latin America and also his conviction that the only way to find fair and lasting solutions to the area's problems is by means of negotiations and not by means of force.

However, Reagan found greater identification with his hosts in Central America. In San Jose, Costa Rican President Monge reiterated his close ties of political cooperation with Washington and asserted that there is a strong, loving communication between his government and the Government of the United States.

Reagan's meetings with Magana, Rios Montt and Honduran President Roberto Suazo did not contribute anything significant. In these meetings, Reagan merely pointed out the plans devised in Washington to attack, to destabilize and to isolate Nicaragua and to try to prevent, by means of a large-scale intervention by Honduran troops in El Salvador, the advance of the guerrilla forces in that country.

The U.S. President's recent tour of countries in the region was characterized, if anything, by the continual popular demonstrations rejecting his presence and by the show of force by the thousands of security agents who accompanied Reagan in every nation he visited.

Particularly important were the popular events, the meetings, the protest marches and the anti-U.S. rallies with which Reagan was received in Brazil and Colombia. In these demonstrations, the people, mainly students and laborers, burned effigies of Reagan and chanted slogans against Washington, some of which were "Yankees, out of El Salvador!" and "Down with imperialism!" The extensive security measures taken to protect the U.S. President caused indignation and criticism even in the sectors closest to official circles.

Days before, thousands of U.S. and local operatives virtually cordoned off the areas through which Reagan would pass and maintained ironclad control over people and vehicle hicles. In the small city of San Pedro Sula, one person died and two others were seriously wounded when a police patrol machinegunned a vehicle simply because it looked suspicious. Others were beaten and mistreated by the so-called agents of order, without any provocation whatsoever.

Even though Reagan said on arrival in Washington that his tour through Latin America was very fruitful, political and press circles throughout the continent stress that this tour served only to complete Washington's interventionist plans in the region and to revive the already deep anti-U.S. sentiment that today beats in the hearts of the peoples of Our America.

ALMEIDA CONTINUES TOUR OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Meets With Tanzania's Nyerere

FL071615 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1504 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere met with Juan Almeida, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, yesterday and conveyed a personal message for Fidel Castro. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of friendship. Views about the current international situation and matters related to preparations for the seventh meeting of the Nonaligned Movement to be held next March were discussed. President Nyerere sent warm greetings to Fidel through Almeida.

Stops Over in Ethiopia

FL071507 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, has made an official brief stop in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, as part of the tour he is conducting of several African countries.

Juan Almeida was met on arrival by (Bohopolo Quiza-Desta), member of Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the organizing committee of that African country's workers' party. The Cuban leader arrived in Ethiopia from the United Republic of Tanzania, where he met with President Julius Nyerere yesterday.

CANADIAN DEPUTY MINISTER MEETS TWICE WITH CASTRO

PA071556 Paris AFP in Spanish 2024 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Havana, 6 Dec (AFP) -- Canadian Deputy Foreign Minister William Thomas Delworth, who returned home yesterday, had the opportunity to have dinner with Fidel Castro twice in 3 days, it was learned here from reliable sources.

The first "informal" dinner took place at the residence of Karl James Bartleman, Canadian ambassador in Cuba, who organized the Friday evening meeting, which was also attended by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

The second dinner was suggested by Fidel Castro himself, who invited the ranking Canadian official and that country's ambassador on Saturday evening.

Delworth's trip to Cuba, following his recent appointment, was part of a tour of Central America and the Caribbean that took him earlier to Jamaica, Haiti, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Costa Rica. Delworth arrived in Havana on Thursday evening.

ICAP PRESIDENT RECEIVED BY SRV'S HOANG TUNG

FL071600 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1511 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] In Hanoi, Hoang Tung, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat, has received Rene Rodriguez Cruz, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples, ICAP. The high Vietnamese official briefed Rodriguez Cruz on his country's current national, economic and social situation as well as on the political situation in the region.

For his part, the ICAP president reiterated the decision of the Cuban people, government and party to further strengthen the friendship uniting the two peoples, and explained the activities being conducted by the Cuban Committee of Solidarity with Vietnam.

The daily NHAN DAN, official organ of the Vietnamese Communist Party, has highlighted the activities of the Cuban delegation in that country.

FAR OFFICIALS RECEIVE CDR AWARD ON ANNIVERSARY

FL071530 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] With the presentation of the 28 September medal to a group of military chiefs, the week chosen by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] to honor FAR members on their 26th founding anniversary has concluded.

The ceremony, which was held at the Maximo Gomez FAR Academy, was chaired by Div Gen Sixto Batista Santana, chief of the FAR Political Directorate, and CDR National Coordinator Armando Acosta, both alternate members of the Politburo. Speaking at the ceremony were Div Gen Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the FAR General Staff and member of the Central Committee, and Armando Acosta. The two speakers noted the close ties uniting the CDR members and FAR combatants.

BRIEFS

SUGAR HARVEST NEWS—More than 50 sugar mills in the country have joined the sugar harvest, whose main watchword is exigency. All Santiago de Cuba's sugar mills are grinding for the present harvest and the rest of the provinces, except Guantanamo, are actively working in the production of sugar. According to the Sugar Industry Ministry, before the end of December there will be 119 sugar mills in operation, while the rest of the units will join harvest activities in January, except Guantanamo's Paraguay sugar mill which will begin grinding in February. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 82 FL]

BAHAMAS

PRIME MINISTER PINDLING SCORES U.S. POLICY

FL071512 Bridgetown CANA in English 1407 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Miami, Dec 7, CANA-REUTER -- Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling said last night that President Reagan's Caribbean Basin initiative, a trade and investment package before the U.S. Congress, was of little benefit to his country. Alluding to a remark by Vice President George Bush Sunday that Cuba was "an expensive, semi-colonial dependency that costs its Soviet sponsor $9 million per day," Pindling asked: "If Cuba is worth $9 million a day to Russia, how much is the Caribbean worth to America?

"If Russia, for $3 1/4 billion a year, underwrites the cause of insurrection and totalitarian repression in our region, how far would America go to underwrite the preservation of peace and democratic freedoms?"

Bush and Pindling both spoke at the sixth Miami conference on the Caribbean, organized by Caribbean-Central American Action (C-CAA), a Washington-based organization sponsored by major U.S. businesses. C-CAA backs the administration's contention that incentives to spur private enterprises are the best way to help ailing economies in the Caribbean Basin area, an overseas version of "Reaganomics" that downgrades direct government involvement.

Pindling hitherto has refrained from direct criticism of U.S. policy in the Caribbean region. Sources in Nassau say, however, that he has recently become disillusioned with Washington. He noted last night that his nation of islands off the east coast of Florida has had a democratically-elected legislature for 253 years, including more than nine years of independence from Britain.

The United States, he implied, had failed to recognize that, in its concentration on putting a halt to communist infiltration of the region in Cuba, Nicaragua and elsewhere, it had neglected the kinds of government it now seeked to encourage.

Pindling said he was deeply concerned about Washington legislation denying his country U.S. tax exemption for business conventions held in the islands, which had cost the Bahamas $55 million. He also attacked "not so subtle attempts by United States agencies to influence a number of Caribbean countries that have traditionally enjoyed tax haven into changing their bank secrecy laws."

"Regrettably," Pindling said, "we in the Bahamas have come to the conclusion that the Caribbean Basin intitiative, as presently constituted, is of little benefit to the Bahamas, although it must be said that the plan has some positive aspects of practical importance to other economies of the region."

The U.S. Congress has approved a $350 million package in emergency cash aid to four "friendly" Caribbean countries. But key portions of the CBI, including tax relief and other incentives to encourage U.S. private investment in the Caribbean region and permit free access of Caribbean goods to the United States, are stalled in the House of Representatives.

"If the Caribbean economic recovery plan is only a joke," Pindling said last night, "who will have the last laugh?"

DOMINICA

FORMER PRIME MINISTER PATRICK JOHN REARRESTED

FL072317 Bridgetown CANA in English 2312 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Dec 7, CANA -- Former Dominica Prime Minister Patrick John has been re-arrested on charges of plotting to overthrow the island's government last year, police sources said tonight. His re-arrest follows the official announcement this afternoon that the West Indies Associated States Court of Appeal had upheld an appeal by government against a high court decision last May to acquit John.

JAMAICA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE

UN Official Comments

FL071750 Bridgetown CANA in English 1705 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Montego Bay, Jamaica, Dec. 7, CANA -- Between 60 and 80 countries are expected to sign the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention by Friday evening, secretariat officials said today. "Anything more than that would be a bonus," said Convention President Tommy Koh of Singapore, as the U.N. Law of the Sea Conference moved into its second day in this north coast Jamaican resort town.

Before coming to Montego Bay, the president and the collegium had set a modest target of 50 signatures, which is the agreed minimum to set up the preparatory commission.

Some delegations, in the course of their statements to the conference, have been giving clear indications that they will be signing. Speaking at a press conference here last night, Ambassador Koh said there was no procedure by which it could be ascertained before hand exactly which countries will sign.

Ambassador Koh said there were no surprises coming from any of the fourteen speakers yesterday, but "I thought a very remarkable harmony of views came out, given the considerable spectrum of the speakers as they came from Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa. There were a few themes that struck me as important."

Ambassador Koh listed the first important theme as the unanimity among all the speakers in saying that the convention, in spite of its many imperfections "constituted a very monumental achievement for the international community.

"It will certainly promote the world community's interests in many fields. The peace and security in the conservation and utilisation of the living resources of the ocean: in promoting co-operation between states: in the protection of marine environment: in new and more suitable rules and marine scientific research, and most important of all, in translating a concept -- the human heritage common heritage concept into concrete, practical, workable institutions and arrangement."

The second theme detected by Ambassador Koh was that all the speakers were of the view that the convention constitutes "an integral whole which is indivisible and that it is not possible therefore for delegations to pick parts of the convention they like and to disregard parts they do not like."

He said that to do this would be completely inconsistent with:

(1) The package deal approach which guided the conference throughout the nine years of negotiation;

(2) The fact that it is a matter of law, it is an integrated convention;

(3) Both in domestic and international law, rights and obligations go hand in hand and one could not really asserts rights without being willing at the same time to assume the correlative obligations.

"The final theme I caught, which was important, was that the preparatory commission, which will hopefully be triggered off with 50 signatories and will begin its work in March next year, is an important new phase of the work of the conference, that in adopting these detailed rules, regulations and procedures, some of the fears and anxieties, which some of our colleagues from industrialised countries still harbour, will disappear and, hence, there was an exhortation to ourselves that when we are working in a preparatory commission we should take a pragmatic, realistic and workman -- like approach to our work," Ambassador Koh said.

Japan Won't Sign Yet

FL071930 Bridgetown CANA in English 1820 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Montego Bay, Jamaica, Dec 7, CANA-REUTER -- Japan today praised the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention but said it would not be able to sign the treaty yet because its new government had not completed its review of the text.

Speaking at the final session of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, leading up to a formal signing ceremony here on Friday, Ambassador Toru Nakagawa said: "Due to the fact that a new cabinet was formed only recently in Japan, my government was unable to complete the necessary review for signing the convention at the present conference.

"I should, however, like to take this opportunity to affirm the basic position of my government that the convention as a whole merits its support and signature," he added.

In his speech, Ambassador Nakagawa said Japan viewed the convention, which regulates virtually all uses of the oceans, as serving the "long-term and comprehensive interests of the world community and the interests of Japan, a maritime state very much dependent on the use of the ocean."

India Announces Support

FL071945 Bridgetown CANA in English 1830 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Montego Bay, Dec 7, CANA-REUTER -- India said today it would sign the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention here this week and appealed to the United States to follow suit as soon as possible.

"My delegation is...satisfied with the broad framework of the convention which we intend to sign here in Jamaica on December 10," Indian Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Jagannath Kaushal, told the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea, now holding its final session.

Noting that the convention, which regulates virtually all uses of the oceans, had received wide support, he said: "In this context, I would like to make a special appeal to the government of the United States to join the other members of the world community of states in signing the convention as soon as it is possible for them to do so."

The United States is strongly opposed to the treaty's provisions governing seabed mining and was one of four countries to vote against it when the convention was adopted last April 30 by 130 to four against with 17 abstentions.

The minister noted that, under the convention, India had been accorded the status of a "pioneer investor" -- a country granted certain rights for having already invested considerable resources and technology in prospecting for seabed minerals.

"We have all the limitations of a developing country. Yet our achievements will not boost the morale and self-esteem of our own nation but will also make a contribution to the promotion of the interests of the developing countries," he said.

India had also obtained "useful and interesting data and samples from its intensive surveys in the Central Indian Basin of the Indian Ocean," Mr Jagannath Kaushal added.

New Support Voiced

FL080050 Bridgetown CANA in English 2212 GMT 7 Dec 82

[By Anthony Goodman]

[Excerpts] Montego Bay, Jamaica, Dec 7, CANA-REUTER -- The United Nations Law of the Sea Conference today heard new pledges of support for an ocean law convention to be opened for signature on Friday, together with appeals to the United States to drop its opposition to the treaty.

Without mentioning the United States by name, a number of speakers also warned against any attempts to exploit seabed minerals outside the provisions of the convention.

Representatives of India, Brazil, Australia, Fiji, East Germany and Kenya were among those who announced their intention to sign the accord on the closing day of the nine-year-long conference.

Ambassador Keith Brennan of Australia, after announcing his intention to sign the convention, asked to be allowed to "presume on traditional friendships" by urging governments contemplating seabed mining outside the accord to undertake an assessment at the highest national level before making any such decision.

Suriname Joins Supporters

FL080105 Bridgetown CANA in English 2349 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 7, CANA -- Seven more countries have joined the growing list of those which have said they will sign the Law of the Sea Convention, despite the opposition of the major industrialised countries led by the United States.

With the increasing support of countries such as India, Brazil, Suriname, Australia, Finland, Fiji and Kenya, it seems that there will not be any problems in getting the preparatory commission in motion next March.

Suriname's Lucien J.L. Henar, cautioned the key pioneer mining nations against setting up an alternative mining regime outside the convention, thereby dividing the richest ocean areas among a handful of states.

"In order to be taken seriously in future global negotiations, the major industrialised states cannot just pick up their marbles and walk away, just because they did not get everything they might have wanted," he said.

Osmo Lares of Finland, said the new convention may well become one of the most significant legal instruments of this century and, the deep-sea regime created by the convention represents the best possible balance that could be achieved.

Giving Fiji's support, Satya N. Nandan, noted that a result of the convention, "countries which were once separated by large expanses of seas, have suddenly become close neighbours, often with overlapping jurisdictions."

It was ironical, he noted, that one delegation which has decided not to support the convention made many constructive contributions to the conference. Fiji, he said, hopes that the position of that country is a "temporary aberration" from its traditional support for international law.

Keith G. Brennan, of Australia, said while his country will sign, it would have liked to see some of the seabed provisions written differently, and hoped that ways could be found to make the convention acceptable to countries with particular problems.

"If there is any radical departure by states from the provisions of this convention, the disorders of the 60's will return in aggravated form to plague us again," he said.

Grenada To Sign

FL062330 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] The people's revolutionary government has announced that it will sign the Law of the Sea Convention. The signing of this document will take place in Montego Bay, Jamaica on Friday. Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman will sign on behalf of Grenada. Grenada's delegation at the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, which opened today, is led by Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman and includes Comrade Jimmy Emmanuel, high commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean and Guyana.

The session is expected to hear statements from several delegations. Minister Whiteman will deliver Grenada's statement.

BORDER TROOPS REPORTEDLY FIRE ON HELICOPTER

FL071058 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Guyana's defense minister says the tense situation along the Venezuela-Guyana border almost caused a tragedy last week. On Tuesday, 65 kms from the border, Guyanese troops fired on an unidentified helicopter that flew over the (Bayamita) airstrip. The helicopter landed and was shown to belong to a Franch Guianese company. No one was hurt and engineers from Guyana are repairing the helicopter.

OPPOSITION CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO BREAK IMF TIES

FL080045 Bridgetown CANA in English 2300 GMT 7 Dec 82

[By Mike James]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 7, CANA -- Guyana's official opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has charged that the remedies proposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for this country's ailing economy since 1978 have only aggravated the problems. In a statement issued here, the Marxist PPP called on the government to immediately end its relationship with the IMF, instead of implementing recommendations contained in a recent IMF staff report on Guyana.

The document referred to is an October 8th report from the IMF staff to the Fund's executive board, summarising the results of a visit by an IMF team to Guyana in July as a basis for a board discussion on this country.

On November 11, the state-run GUYANA NEWS AGENCY (GNA) reported that the IMF had approved 5.93 million dollars in special drawing rights for Guyana, under the Fund's compensatory financing facility.

The PPP statement renewed the party's call for a "national patriotic front government, premised on grassroots unity, anti-imperialism and democracy." It also called on the Forbes Burnham government to take a number of alternative measures, including changing Guyana's trade pattern towards the socialist bloc, freezing expenditure on the military and police, granting incentives to farmers and other producers, and restoring political and industrial democracy. The PPP, led by Dr Cheddi Jagan, added that in the long run only a "people's revolution" would cure Guyana's problems.

The statement quoted the IMF document as saying, among other things: "Guyana's performance under the recently-cancelled extended fund arrangement was very disappointing."

There has been a loss of markets for rice exports.

"So far, the largest three corporations had retrenched close to 6,000 workers and had planned to lay off a further 2,000 employees. The sugar corporation was moving to streamline its operations by closing down two sugar factories."

The document added: "Imports in 1983 could be about 10 per cent below the depressed levels of 1982.

"In the first five months of this year, the civil service was trimmed by about 5,000 employees or about 17 per cent. Further large scale cuts in spending will be needed to compensate for the reduction in government revenue. The government may well be advised to rise the interest rates."

The statement said: "The PPP is opposed to the implementation of the IMF staff report for this will increase the hardships of the Guyanese masses. The IMF is not interested in solving the problems of any nation, only in the maintenance of the capitalist system."

The PPP charged that the IMF had envisaged a partnership between Guyana and imperialist (mainly U.S.) monopolies, shrinking state sector and a growing private sector, other aspects of deregulation and de-nationalisation, managerial control of foreign (mainly U.S.) firms and close of some state entities.

The PPP also said that the crackdown on small traders will boomerang as long as the popular demand for commodities remains unfulfilled by the government and that it will result in increased smuggling across the frontier and the continuance of a thriving parallel market in Guyana.

"The cowardly People's National Congress regime is now preparing to submit to the IMF masters and "hive off" [as received] the entire country, not just a few corporations," the PPP said. It urged the government to "get rid of the IMF now, since its prescriptions were making the patient more sick, since 1978 when IMF medicines were first administered, they have not been able to heal the patient."

PRESIDENT BURNHAM SUMMONS SUPREME CONGRESS

FL061805 Bridgetown CANA in English 1745 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec. 6, CANA -- President Forbes Burnham has issued a proclamation summoning the first meeting of the Supreme Congress of the People for December 10 under powers conferred on him by the 1978 Guyana Constitution.

The Supreme Congress comprises members of the National Assembly and local government bodies called the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs. Its first sitting will take place at the National Culture Centre on the outskirts of Georgetown.

The meeting coincides with the 18th anniversary of the People's National Congress in office. The Supreme Congress may be summoned by the president to discuss matters of national importance and to make recommendations to the president, who is expected to give major address at the session.

SURINAME

MILITARY AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH VENEZUELA

PM071051 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 3 Dec 82 p 7

[ANP dispatch: "Suriname Enters Military Agreement With Venezuela"]

[Text] Paramaribo -- Suriname has signed a military agreement with Venezuela, Surinamese Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp announced at a news conference on Wednesday. The minister said nothing about the agreement's contents.

Last week Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco paid a 2-day visit to Suriname. The visit was dominated by Suriname's growing ties with Venezuela. It was agreed that the countries, which both border on Guyana and have claims on territory there, should hold regular consultations.

In the talks that the Venezuelan minister held with Surinamese leaders, including Suriname's "strong man" Col Desi Bouterse, other political and regional questions were discussed. Air transport and the timber industry play an important part in relations between Suriname and Venezuela. Much attention was also paid to Venezuelan purchases of Surinamese bauxite.

Zambrano also announced that a Surinamese delegation headed by Surinamese Prime Minister Henry Neijhorst will visit Caracas in January.

URUGUAY

ARMY COMMANDER ON RELATIONS WITH POLITICIANS

PY071326 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1926 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 6 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Boscan Hontou today reaffirmed that the plan of the armed forces that provides for discussions with politicians next year in order to draft the future constitution would be implemented.

Speaking during the ceremony that honored army officers who retired during 1982, Hontou said that the armed forces will continue to contribute the quota of confidence that is necessary to establish a representative, effective and stable democracy.

Hontou stated that after the political parties have reorganized, which will be the result of the internal elections that were held on 28 November, they will begin the fundamental step of the institutionalization program: that of drafting, together with the armed forces, the future constitution.

Hontou stated today that the armed forces and the politicians must guarantee an atmosphere of peace, security and stability, because in no way can there exist disagreements and prejudice that could lead to another political crisis.

The armed forces took over the government in 1973 with the firm intention of not remaining in power, the army commander in chief said.